AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2

This application claims priority to ~~U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/143,821 entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMPUTER SECURITY filed July 14, 1999 which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and~~ U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/151,531 entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER SECURITY filed August 30, 1999 which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a3

This application is related to co-pending U. S. Patent Application No. 09/615,961 ____________~~(Attorney Docket No. RECOP006)~~ entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING A COMPUTER NETWORK AGAINST DENIAL OF SERVICE ATTACKS filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U. S. Patent Application No. 09/615,888 ____________~~(Attorney Docket No. RECOP009)~~ entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DYNAMICALLY CHANGING A COMPUTER PORT OR ADDRESS filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U. S. Patent Application No. 09/616,803 _______ ~~(Attorney Docket No. RECOP010)~~ entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR QUICKLY AUTHENTICATING MESSSAGES USING SEQUENCE NUMBERS filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a4

In the example illustrated in Figure 1, the edge router 116 is connected to core router 120a which ~~core router~~ is located in the same physical location 114 as the edge router 116. It is also possible for edge router 116 to connect to a core router that is located in a different physical location than the core router 120a. It is also possible in certain networks for the edge router to also serve as the core router and to directly permit connections between network elements served by the router and external networks such as the Internet. This disclosure is applicable equally to networks configured in the manner described above as well as to other variations and configurations known in the art.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a5

In this manner, multiple copies of the same suspicious message, such as may be the case with events A, B, and C in the queue associated with row 0 and column 1, could not successfully be used by an attacker to mask from detection a potentially more threatening suspicious message, such as one associated with event F in the queue associated with row 0, column 4, by requiring the system to process multiple copies of the same message before being able to process the more threatening message. Because of the way in which the row and column addresses are calculated, multiple copies of the same message would be placed in the same queue because the hash of the total message and the hash of the destination address would be the same for each message. Similarly, different messages sent to the same destination may appear in different columns, but would be in the same row, because they would have the same destination address, which determines the row address. For example, in the example shown in Figure 6, event A, B, and C may be the same message, and event F may be a different message sent to the same destination. On[[c]]e strategy that an attacker might attempt would be to send massive numbers of copies of a a5

suspicious but relatively innocuous message in the hope of overloading the security systems in place on the target network and then to send a more potentially dangerous message to the same destination with the hope that the more dangerous message would escape detection and analysis by the by then overloaded security systems. The approach described above would prevent such a strategy from being successful because only the first message of the series of identical messages would be analyzed before a message from other queues would be sent to the analysis framework for analysis.